

# Schermerhorn Scandal

MAY 16, 1944, NEW YORK, NY

## Scientist Gives Birth to Tailless Mouse.

Professor Dunn Reports only verified case in history.

Father Verifies Scientist's intention. Gave Consent for Experiments

Noted Geneticist speculates on significance of Prenatal influence to Eugenics.

Room, Beth Israel Hospital, May 16, 1944.

The father of the tailless mouse <sup>has</sup> granted an interview, and verified accuracy of the reported birth. Questioning <sup>revealed</sup> that on neither side of the family has there been a <sup>previous</sup> report of birth of either a mouse or rat. Most of the family is tailless, however. In spite of the absence of tails in the family, the experiment must be considered valid in view of the absence of rodents from the family pedigrees.

Upon being asked whether he was read of the extraordinary event, he replied, "Not particularly. I had very little to do with it. I shall not hand out cigars."

Experimental Station to Change its Name.

The Laboratory for experimental Evolution at Spring Harbor will be called The Lamont Station for Experimental Evolution.

Director of the Station, Dr. Dornow, stated that the full activities of the station would be devoted to studies on prenatal influence, & hence the change in name. "We are eager," Dornow said, "to be in the vanguard of this new science." Dr. MacDougal, the expert on mouse genetics in the laboratory, is reported to be somewhat depressed at not having been consulted in on the experiments of Professor Dunn.

Room 805, May 16, 1944. Professor J. C. Dunn reports in Science this week the first scientifically studied case of prenatal influence in the history of modern science. The case is a result of experiments performed in Professor Dunn's laboratory with the aid of his indispensable assistant, Dr. Salome Schoenheimer. The expectant mother, whose name is tactfully withheld from publication, was exposed daily to the presence of tailless mice, and was induced to actually handle them. We were unable to obtain an interview with Dr. Schoenheimer, and so were unable to ascertain how the expectant mother was induced to handle the tailless rodents.

"The significance" says Professor Dunn "of these experiments cannot be ascertained as yet. One case is not sufficient for generalization. But the far reaching eugenic consequences of these experiments

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cannot be dismissed without some comment. Implicit in prenatal influence is a new method of social reform without revolution. Of evolution through contact and contemplation of the ideal form and attributes. Professor Dunn points out that the democratic world may well be proud of this contribution which outdistances that of his colleagues in Soviet Union, Mr. Lyubko, in permitting geneticists to bypass the tedious evolution established by Mendelian subjects.

Prof. Dobzhansky in  
lab. for observation

The noted, and holy, Professor Dobzhansky, today on lecture platform. We were alarmed by his silent screaming and called plain clothed men from the stage, who carried the noted man into seclusion. It is noted that the eminent man suffering collapse as a result of the consequences were shock. Well informed were believed this has some connection with the recent great work of Professor Dunn, a well known geneticist, that

## Scientific World Comments on Revolutionary Experiment

Professor Franz Schwader wired from Costa Rica, "No Comment. The experiments do not involve meiosis."

Professor MacGregor: "It cannot be a throwback. But one cannot overlook the possibility that it represents the next step in evolution. An examination of the neopallium may show this to be the case. As you know, rodents are the most successful group of mammals as shown by their ubiquitous distribution. If this is combined with human intelligence it may represent the development of a super species."

Professor Barth: "I cannot be skeptical of the work, but I wonder if Dr. Schwachmer transplanted a mouse embryo a little farther than into a chick egg? If not, surely the phosphate bonds should be studied for a possible location of the mechanism of prenatal influence?"

Professor Ryan: "I always knew women are strange animals!"

Dr. Ballantine: "My mother showed that human can produce rodents, 30 years ago."

Dr. Waelsch: "Medium, Medium!"

Mr. Hinton: "I wonder if the event cannot be ascribed to the effects of alcohol?"

Mr. Maas: — a quotation from Goethe, followed by a quotation from "Alice in Wonderland".

Mr. Schnag: "Nowonder she didn't tell us she was pregnant, Bertha."

Dr. Rhoades: "If Professor Dunn says it's true, it must be true."

Miss Taylor: "I wonder if the prenatal influence could have been reversed by yeast extract?"